

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A container system for removing a needle portion from a needle holder of a needle system, said container system comprising:

a receptacle defining an opening;

a lid configured to cover said receptacle opening, said lid defining a lid aperture having a shape configured to contact a surface of a first needle system having a first configuration, thereby facilitating removal of the needle portion of the first needle system from the needle holder of the first needle system; and

an adapter configured for engagement in said lid aperture and to resist rotation of said adapter with respect to said lid, said adapter defining an adapter aperture having a shape configured to contact a surface of a second needle system having a second configuration, thereby facilitating removal of the needle portion of the second needle system from the needle holder of the second needle system,

wherein ~~one of said lid aperture and said adapter aperture~~ is at least partially defined by converging wall portions positioned to contact a release mechanism of the needle holder of the ~~respective first~~ needle system to expand an opening defined in the needle holder to release the needle portion from the needle holder, and

wherein the ~~other of said lid aperture and said adapter aperture~~ is at least partially defined by a rectangular portion positioned to contact a substantially rectangular portion of the needle holder of the ~~other respective second~~ needle system thereby facilitating rotation and release of the needle portion from the needle holder.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The container system of claim 1 wherein said lid aperture is substantially funnel-shaped.

4. (Previously Presented) The container system of claim 3, said adapter having an outer surface configured to be received in said substantially funnel-shaped lid aperture.

5. (Previously Presented) The container system of claim 1 wherein said adapter aperture is substantially rectangular-shaped.

6. (Previously Presented) The container system of claim 1 wherein said lid includes a depression adjacent said lid aperture, and said adapter includes a detent configured to extend into said depression, wherein said detent is configured to facilitate said engagement between said adapter and said lid aperture.

7. (Previously Presented) The container system of claim 6 wherein said lid includes two or more depressions adjacent said lid aperture, and said detent is configured to extend into one of said depressions to facilitate said engagement.

8. (Previously Presented) The container system of claim 7 wherein said adapter includes two or more of detents, each of said detents being configured to extend into one of said depressions to facilitate said engagement.

9. (Previously Presented) The container system of claim 1 wherein said adapter includes at least one flange positioned to engage said lid to resist removal of said adapter from said lid.

10. (Previously Presented) The container system of claim 9 wherein said flange engages a lower edge of said lid adjacent said lid aperture to resist said removal of said adapter from said lid.

11. (Previously Presented) The container system of claim 9 wherein said adapter includes at least two flanges positioned to engage said lid to resist removal of said adapter from said lid.

12. (Currently Amended) A container system for removing a needle portion from a needle holder of a needle system, said container system comprising:

means for containing a needle portion, said containing means defining a container aperture having a shape configured to contact a surface of a first needle system having a first configuration, thereby facilitating removal of the needle portion of the first needle system from the needle holder of the first needle system;

means for adapting said container aperture of said containing means to receive a second needle system having a second configuration, said adapting means being configured for engagement at said container aperture of said containing means, and said adapting means defining an adapter aperture having a shape configured to contact a surface of the second needle system having the second configuration, thereby facilitating removal of the needle portion of the second needle system from the needle holder of the second needle system; and

means for resisting rotation of said adapting means relative to said containing means;

wherein ~~one of said container aperture and said adapter aperture~~ is at least partially defined by converging wall portions positioned to contact a release mechanism of the needle holder of the ~~respective~~ first needle system to expand an opening defined in the needle holder to release the needle portion from the needle holder, and

wherein the ~~other of said container aperture and said adapter aperture~~ is at least partially defined by a rectangular portion positioned to contact a substantially rectangular portion of the needle holder of the ~~other~~ respective second needle system thereby facilitating rotation and release of the needle portion from the needle holder.

13. (Previously Presented) The container system of claim 12, said containing means comprising a receptacle defining an opening and a lid configured to cover said receptacle opening.

14. (Previously Presented) The container system of claim 13, said container aperture of said containing means being defined in said lid.

15. (Currently Amended) A container system for removing a needle portion from a needle holder of a needle system, said container system comprising:

a lid defining a lid aperture having a shape configured to contact a surface of a first needle system having a first configuration; and

an adapter configured for engagement in said lid aperture, said adapter defining an adapter aperture having a shape configured to contact a surface of a second needle system having a second configuration,

wherein one of said lid aperture and said adapter aperture is at least partially defined by ~~converging~~ wall portions positioned to contact the needle holder of the first ~~respective~~ needle system and to release the needle portion from the needle holder,

wherein the other of said lid aperture and said adapter aperture is at least partially defined by wall portions positioned to contact the needle holder of the ~~other respective~~ second needle system for rotation and release of the needle portion from the needle holder, and

wherein said lid includes two or more depressions adjacent said lid aperture, and said adapter includes a detent configured to extend into one of said depressions to facilitate said engagement between said adapter and said lid aperture.

16. (Currently Amended) A container system for removing a needle portion from a needle holder of a needle system, said container system comprising:

a receptacle defining an opening;

a lid configured to cover said receptacle opening, said lid defining a lid aperture having a shape configured to contact a surface of a first needle system having a first configuration, thereby facilitating removal of the needle portion of the first needle system from the needle holder of the first needle system, said lid including two or more depressions adjacent said lid aperture; and

an adapter configured for engagement in said lid aperture, said adapter defining an adapter aperture having a shape configured to contact a surface of a second needle system having a second configuration, thereby facilitating removal of the needle portion of the second needle system from the needle holder of the second needle system, said adapter including a detent configured to extend into one of said depressions to facilitate said engagement between said adapter and said lid aperture,

wherein ~~one of said lid aperture and said adapter aperture~~ is at least partially defined by converging wall portions positioned to contact a release mechanism of the needle holder of the ~~respective first~~ needle system to expand an opening defined in the needle holder to release the needle portion from the needle holder, and

wherein the ~~other of said lid aperture and said adapter aperture~~ is at least partially defined by a rectangular portion positioned to contact a substantially rectangular portion of the needle holder of the ~~other respective second~~ needle system thereby facilitating rotation and release of the needle portion from the needle holder.

17. (Previously Presented) The container system of claim 16, wherein said adapter includes two or more detents, each of said detents being configured to extend into one of said depressions to facilitate said engagement.